

SYNOPSIS

TATANKA AS A WOLF

“Wolves, pathfinders to lonely and powerful places”

Tonight is the full moon ceremony, when all the Wa-Mo hunters dance the wolf dance.

Lulu is working on necklaces, with animal teeth, for the hunters. She draws patterns on animal teeth, and attaches them to strings of leather.

Tatanka wants his own animal tooth necklace. He has his bear claw, but no tooth.

He walks over to Lulu with a piece of leather string, and asks if she has a spear animal tooth. She does not. The necklaces are for the big Indians when they dance the wolf dance in the full moon ceremony. Tatanka runs to the measuringpole to check if he has grown big enough to join the wolf dance – but he is still a small Indian. The teasing youngster teases Tatanka. He says he will feel with him, especially tonight when all the big Indians get brand new animal tooth necklaces.

In a way you can say that Tatanka is bothered with toothache. The teasing youngster says Tatanka should just shout out in fury, so everyone hears it. But Tatanka does not want to.

Tatanka enters the woods and hangs his leather string over a branch. It feels refreshing to get rid of it. It was just another reminder of how sad it feels to never be big enough.

Tatanka suddenly hears a loud and heartrending howl of a wolf close by. Tatanka transforms into a wolf and follows the noise. The wolf is howling out of pain. He has a toothache and wants to lose the tooth - but how?

Tatanka (as wolf) recalls the leather string he just left hanging over a branch. He attaches one end to the wolf's tooth, and pulls the other end. The wolf is lifted up towards the branch, until the branch breaks. The wolf falls to the ground, and gets the broken branch in the back of his head. Tatanka decides to make a seesaw by balancing a trunk of wood on a large rock. He tells the wolf to lie on his back under one side of the trunk, with the string tied to the tooth and the trunk. Tatanka sits down on the other side of the seesaw.

Again, the wolf is just lifted up by the string, while the tooth refuses to let go. Fed up with trying, Tatanka rises from his side of the trunk. The other side of the trunk falls and hits the wolf in the back of his head – again. Now, the wolf is tired of trying. He would much rather have to live with a toothache, than a headache.

Tatanka insists on trying one more time. He gets behind a tree, and places the wolf on the other side of the tree. Tatanka holds the string, while the wolf falls over on his back. The tooth loosens, flies up in the air, and lands on the wolf's nose. The wolf gets irritated, and is just about to throw the tooth away, when Tatanka says it would fit nicely on his leather string - they sort of fit together now, the string and the tooth. The wolf does not mind, as long as he does not have to see it.

The wolf thanks Tatanka for the help. Before leaving, he turns to Tatanka and says: Sometimes wolves prefer to be alone.

Back at the camp, Lulu helps Tatanka attach his wolf tooth to the leather string. She then draws a picture at the tooth – a picture of Tatanka, the little big Indian.

Tatanka sits by the lonely tree, puts on his buffalo hood, and tells his grandfather about the wolf. He talks about the full moon ceremony and the big Indian's wolf dance. The whole Wa-Mo tribe is gathered around the camp fire. "But it is pretty wolf-like to be alone too" says Tatanka.

A place close by, a lonely wolf howls under the full moon.